Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

New York Academy of Sciences, Biological Section, Nov. 20. —The following papers were read:—"On the Scope of Modern Physiology," by F. S. Lee; "Notes on recently discovered deposits of Diatomaceous Earths in the Adirondacks," by C. F. Cox; "Systematic Notes on Dracocephalum and Cedronella," by N. L. Britton.

December 4.—Professor H. F. Osborn described and exhibited a series of restorations of lower Miocene mammals including Titanotherium, Aceratherium, Metamynodon, Protapirus, Elotherium, Oreodon and other characteristic forms. This is the first of a series of tertiary mammal groups in preparation.

Mr. O. L. Strong described a new modification of the rapid Golgi method designed to eliminate some of its present defects, i. e., uncertainty of success and irregularity in the stain when attained, due probably in great measure to the feeble penetration of the silver nitrate.

The modification consisted in adding a certain proportion of sodium sulphate to the silver nitrate which the specimens are placed after the hardening in osmic-bichromate.

While this modification has hardly been tried sufficiently to ascertain exactly its merits, it seemed certain that in some cases, at least, it gave much more complete and uniformly stained pictures of the nervous system than the old procedure.

Specimens of the heart of a tadpole and cord of an embryo chick were exhibited.

Professor E. B. Wilson noted a mode of preparation of lobster testis which gave results especially favorable for class work in Cytology.

BASHFORD DEAN, *Rec. Sec.*

Boston Society of Natural History, November 15th, 1893.— The following paper was read: Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, Comparative ceremoniology of the Mexican and Pueblo Indians.

December 6.—The folowing papers were read: Mr. R. E. Dodge, the Geographical Development of River Terraces; Professor W. M. Davis, Facetted Stones from Cape Cod. Both papers were illustrated by stereopticon views.

December 20.—The following papers were read: Mr. Severance Burrage, Observations on insectivorous plant, the thread-leaved Sundew (*Drosera filiformis Raf.*); Merritt Lyndon Fernald, On the geographical distribution of the flowering plants of the upper St. John River, northern Maine.

SAMUEL HENSHAW, *Secretary.*

The Biological Society of Washington.—Following was the programme of the evening. Symposium:—B. E. Fernow, C. W. Stiles, Theo. N. Gill, Geo. Marx and others; on what are the especial needs of the Biological Society of Washington.

December 2, 1893.—The following communications were read: Mr. Frederick H. Blodgett, Notes on the Development of the Bulb of the Adder's Tongue: Mr. E. W. Nelson, A New Species of Lagomys from Alaska; Dr. Erwin F. Smith, On a Bacterial Disease of Cucumbers, etc., working through the Fibrovascular Bundles; Probably Transmitted by Insects; Dr. C. W. Stiles, The Teaching of Biology in Colleges.

FREDERIC A. LUCAS, *Secretary.*

Odontological Society of Pennsylvania, Saturday, December 9th, 8 P. M.—William Romaine Newbold, Ph. D., of the University of Pennsylvania read a paper: "The Psychological Significance of Hypnotic Suggestion and Kindred Phenomena."

Dr. Thomas Fillebrown of Boston, Mass., opened the discussion. The following is an abstract of Dr. Newbold s paper.

The psychical phenomena of the hypnotic state can for the most part be regarded as due to heightened suggestibility. Suggestibility is found in all normal persons and occurs not infrequently in pathological degree. It can be connected with the conception of the mental state as representing to us cortical processes and hence as a dynamic thing, due to definite causes and necessarily involving definite effects.

Normal perceiving and thinking involves the functioning of the cortex as a whole composed of parts more or less differentiated functionally and standing in multiple intercorrellations with one another. Hence in normal life the effects of any given cortical process or mental state can never be dissociated from those of preëxisting activities and predispositions.

In the condition known as heightened suggestibility, by whatever agency it be produced, the cortical coördination is unimpaired; those activities which chiefly modify the nascent process or state being temporarily inhibited; we can study at leisure the development and results of any artificially produced process, whether connected with consciousness or not.

The kindred phenomena of "the fixed idea," "hysteria," "epilepsy," "double consciousness," etc., are due to analagous disturbances in cortical coördination with sundry local complications.

The relation of consciousness to such states is obscure. In some it undoubtedly exists; in some its existence is questionable.

If the occurrence of telepathic phenomena be admitted, they must be explained rather by the conveyance of suggestion by some means at present unrecognized than as proving the existence of some unknown force in the operator constraining the subject to perform acts against his own will.

ALONZO BOICE, *Secretary.*

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

The University of Kansas has issued six numbers of the "Kansas University Quarterly." The Natural History articles so far published are as follows:—Kansas Pterodactyls, pts. 1 & 2, by S. W. Williston; Kansas Mosasaurs by S. W. Williston and E. C. Case; Notes and Descriptions of Syrphidæ by W. A. Snow; Notes on *Meliteria dentata* and the Sclerites of the head of *Danais archippus* by V. L. Kellogg; Diptera Braziliana pts. II & III; the Apioceridæ and their allies, and new or little known Diptera by S. W. Williston; The Great Spirit Spring Mound and the Delicacy of the sense of taste among Indians by E. H. S. Bailey; Notes on some Diseases of Grasses by W. C. Stearns; Revision of the genera Dolichopus and Hygroceleuthus and new genera and species of Psilopinæ by J. M. Aldrich. The Quarterly is well gotten out and reflects much credit upon the University.

Professor Hermann A. Hagen died in Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 8th, 1893. He was born in Königsberg, Prussia, May 30, 1817, and received his M. D. from the University there in 1840. Later he studied in Berlin, Vienna, Paris and other European cities. Meanwhile he devoted considerable attention to entomology, and in 1843 published his first paper "Prussian Odonata" This publication gave him considerable reputation. In 1843 he returned to Königsberg, entered on the general practice of medicine, and for three years was first assistant in the Surgical Hospital. From 1863 until 1867 he was Vice-President of the City Council and member of the school board. He became acquainted with Louis Agassiz, who invited Prof. Hagen to leave Germany and come to Cambridge. Prof. Hagen accepted the offer